

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An apparatus including:

an automated banking machine fascia bezel,

5 wherein the bezel is removably mountable to a fascia of a cash dispensing automated banking machine,

wherein the bezel includes an opening,

wherein the opening is configured to permit a machine user access therethrough to a hardware device of the machine,

10 wherein the bezel includes a movable gate,

wherein the gate is operative to move between a closed position, wherein access through the opening is blocked, and an open position, wherein access through the opening is provided,

wherein the gate is operative to move toward the open position responsive to relative movement of the hardware device toward the bezel during engagement of the hardware device and the gate,

5 wherein the gate is operative to automatically move toward the closed position responsive to relative movement of the hardware device away from the bezel during engagement of the hardware device and the gate.

10 2. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the gate includes at least one rib, wherein the at least one rib enables the gate to move relative to the bezel during engaging movement of the hardware device relative to the bezel.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2 wherein each rib includes an angled engaging surface, wherein each angled engaging surface is configured to engage the hardware device.

15 4. The apparatus according to claim 3 wherein each angled engaging surface is operative to relatively slide in abutting contact with the hardware device during engaging movement of the hardware device relative to the bezel.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4 wherein each angled engaging surface comprises a lower outer surface that extends upwardly at an acute angle from a rear face of the gate.
6. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the gate includes a front face and a rear face, wherein the front face includes an indicator, wherein when the gate is in the closed position the indicator is operatively positioned to inform a potential machine user about an unavailable service.
7. The apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the indicator comprises an out-of-service message.
8. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the gate in the open position is located above the opening.
9. The apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the gate in the open position is located behind the bezel.
10. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein in the closed position the gate physically blocks the access through the opening.

11. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the bezel includes at least one slot, wherein the gate includes at least one projection, wherein each projection is operative to slide in a respective slot during movement of the gate.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11

5 wherein the bezel includes a first slot adjacent a first end and a second slot adjacent an opposed end,

wherein the gate includes a first projection adjacent a first side and a second projection adjacent an opposed side,

wherein the first projection extends through the first slot,

10 wherein the second projection extends through the second slot.

13. The apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the gate is operative to slide downwardly toward the closed position via gravity.

14. The apparatus according to claim 1 and further comprising a cash dispensing automated banking machine, wherein the machine includes a fascia, wherein the fascia includes the
15 bezel.

15. The apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the machine includes the hardware device.

16. The apparatus according to claim 15 wherein the hardware device is operative to engagingly urge the gate upwardly away from the opening during insertion of the hardware device into the machine.

5 17. The apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the hardware device comprises a card reader device.

18. The apparatus according to claim 15

wherein the machine comprises an ATM, wherein the ATM includes a currency dispenser and currency notes, wherein the currency dispenser is operative to
10 dispense the currency notes from the ATM,

wherein the fascia includes at least one input device and at least one output device, wherein the at least one input device and the at least one output device are accessible to a machine user.

19. A method of operating the apparatus recited in claim 14, comprising:

- (a) moving a hardware device relative to the bezel, wherein the movement in (a) causes the hardware device to engage the gate;
- (b) further moving the hardware device relative to the bezel, wherein the movement in (b) causes the gate to be moved toward the open position;
- (c) further moving the hardware device relative to the bezel, wherein the movement in (c) causes the gate to be placed in the open position;
- (d) further moving the hardware device relative to the bezel, wherein the movement in (d) causes the gate to be moved toward the closed position;
- (e) further moving the hardware device relative to the bezel, wherein the movement in (e) causes the gate to be placed in the closed position;
- (f) further moving the hardware device relative to the bezel, wherein the movement in (f) causes the hardware device to disengage from the gate.

20. An apparatus including:

a cash dispensing automated banking machine,

wherein the machine includes a hardware device,

wherein the machine includes a fascia,

5 wherein the fascia includes at least one input device and at least one output device,

wherein the fascia includes a bezel removably mountable thereto,

wherein the bezel includes an opening,

10 wherein the opening is configured to permit a machine user access therethrough to the hardware device,

wherein the bezel includes at least one slot,

wherein the bezel includes a movable gate,

wherein the gate is configured to engage the hardware device,

wherein the gate includes at least one rib,

wherein each rib includes an angled engaging surface,

wherein each angled engaging surface is configured to relatively slide in abutting contact with the hardware device,

wherein the gate includes at least one projection,

wherein each projection is operative to slide in a respective bezel slot during movement of the gate,

wherein the gate is operative to move between a closed position, wherein access through the opening is blocked, and an open position, wherein access through the opening is provided,

wherein the gate is operative to move toward the open position responsive to relative movement of the hardware device toward the bezel during engagement of the hardware device and the gate,

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wherein the gate is operative to automatically move toward the closed position responsive to relative movement of the hardware device away from the bezel during engagement of the hardware device and the gate.